

ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION NEWS



P.O. BOX 1419 NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 02840

Summer-Fall, 1993 No. 17

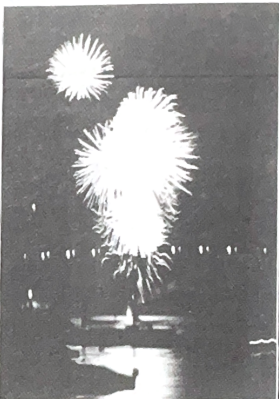
LET THE ROSE ISLAND LIGHT BE LIT!



On August 7 at 9:15 PM, history was made! With flare gun in hand and Betty Smith at her side, Noreen Drexel fired the anxiously-awaited signal to light the light and the fireworks to begin!

Thanks to the many members, friends, trusts and businesses who contributed right up to the last minute, it was Cynthia Palmer's check that hit our \$100,000 goal--with a whole five minutes to spare!

Led in a round of "Happy re-birthday" by duo Dark Horse, everyone at our New York Yacht Club party celebrated with Moët Chandon champagne and Coors LIGHT beer (but they weren't crying it)!



KEEPER'S CORNER: THE LIGHTHOUSE PERSPECTIVE

In the month or so leading up to the re-lighting of our beacon, a kind of craze took over all of us at the Foundation. Sleepless nights and frantic phone calls ran rampant. Everyone involved in this monumental task seemed to feel the pressure and the excitement build...so many things, so much to do!

When Saturday arrived, I could no longer tell night from day. As we approached evening, I thought about how all of our work was about to flow through one small bulb... for all to see. When the signal came from the New York Yacht Club, my eyes were stuck open...overloaded with pride, worry, and excitement. Flipping the switch and watching that beacon light up for the first time in over 20 years was special, yet for me the magic moment followed seconds later... all was quiet for a bit, then I heard one

small horn, and another, and yet another, until I was surrounded by sounding horns from all around the Bay... Boats, cars, horns of every sort sounded...the people were there...all around us, they were there saying "thank you." I knew then that Morgan (ol' three leg) and I were no longer alone in our lighthouse...!

A short while later, when the fireworks were finished I asked my friend Ethin, "E...how were the fireworks?" He looked at me queerly and said, "Didn't you see them? You were right next to me." I replied, "Its strange...I watched them but I didn't see them...." "Oh," he said, then added, "They were pretty cool."

That night I did not get much sleep. Nestled in the hammock under a canopy of wondrous stars I watched...like a new father I watched our new light...Blink.. 1..2..3..4..5..Blink..and for a while the world was right. *Christopher Owens, Keeper*



SEVENTH INNING STRETCH - Olin Gambrell stretches to guide one of the eight pieces of clear tempered glass, which replaces the aged lexan plastic. Using suction cups and lines, the glass was lifted by Christopher and David Dwyer.

RIGHT: Chairman Ralph Weiss stands proudly by our new, modern light--Fl 6s 45ft 5M in Coast Guard lingo, listed as a private aid to navigation. Chris' friend Nate Cantwell did a great job welding the new stand. **BELOW:** Curt Bunting congratulates Chris on all his good work!



Specifically, we need volunteers to work on the following committees: Membership-Development, Education-Operations and Property. If you are interested and can spare some time regularly each month for meetings and work, please call me at 849-9181. Charlotte, Christopher and I will look forward to working with you during the coming year.

Ralph C. Weiss, Chairman

FROM THE CHAIR

With our "Light the Light" campaign successfully completed, the Board of Directors is looking forward making the final payments for the lighthouse restoration, preparing it for winter and installing the new wind generator.

Although a total of \$102,000 was raised, some of it is still in the form of pledges which we are counting on. The last of these funds will be received in January. Like any business, the needs are always immediate, so those of you who have pledged monies please make sure that you send them in as soon as possible. Thanks.

The Board of Directors has approved an operating budget of \$53,400 for the next year, which takes us out of the restoration mode and puts us into that of being an educational resource. The lighthouse has many facets.

Our educational programs are coordinated by the Executive Director, Charlotte Johnson, and supported by the Education and Operations Committee.

Roughly 50% of the budget for the coming year will go toward salaries for our Executive Director and Keeper, Christopher Owens. Your continuing support through memberships, gifts, support of events and volunteering will be key to helping us meet our goals.

**MAY THIS
LIGHT SHINE
ETERNAL!**

*David Warren Ray
Window plaque, 1985*

The *Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation News* is published by the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Charlotte Johnson, Editor. Non-profit postage PAID Newport, RI 02840.

This 501(c)(3) tax exempt foundation has restored the Rose Island lighthouse and is developing compatible, environmentally-sensitive programs in history, preservation, ecology, conservation and recreation that will enrich visitor's lives for many years to come.

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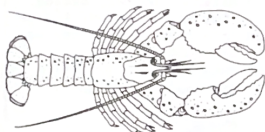
Contributions are deductible within legal limits for U.S. Income Tax purposes. Please mail this form with your payment to: R.I.L.F., P.O. Box 1419, Newport, RI 02840 - THANK YOU!

Kathy Contino of Coors LIGHT Brewing Co. gives WOTB's Bill Gray a hug after a fun-raising evening at Christie's. Both Kathy and Bill were incredibly helpful in meeting our \$100,000 goal!

The top three winners of our Coors Bar Challenge were Cliff Walk Manor, Christie's and Cafe Zelda. A complete Thank You list of contributors will be published shortly.



TOUR ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE THIS FALL
Saturday tours at 1:00 pm are offered until Columbus Day weekend. The last Sunday tours are on Sept 5 and Oct 10. \$10/p. Call 847-4242 for reservations.



**1993
ROSE
ISLAND
LIGHTHOUSE
CLAMBAKE**

DATE: Saturday, September 11, 1993, 4-8pm

LAUNCH: \$5.00/person round trip. Pay the drivers on boarding. Boats leave at 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm from the Goat Island Marina fuel dock and from the Conanicut Marina to return between 7:30-8:30pm.

DINNER: will be unwrapped and served promptly at 6:00 P.M. (This may be a historic first!)
Tickets \$25.00/member and \$35.00/non-member.

If this is the first you've heard of the clambake, maybe it's because you haven't kept up-to-date with your membership. Please check your mailing label. If the top line doesn't end in "94" we need to hear from you! Use the form on the reverse side to update your membership or to join and to order clambake tickets. See you there!

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